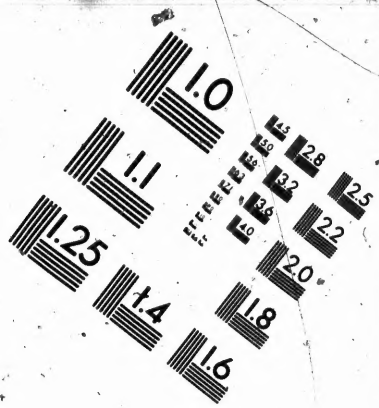

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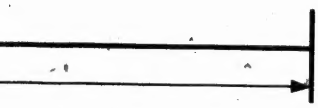

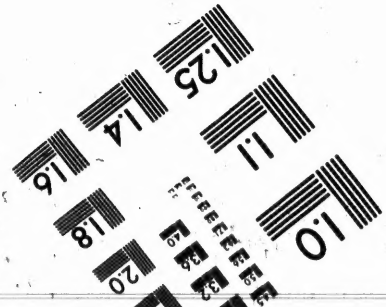

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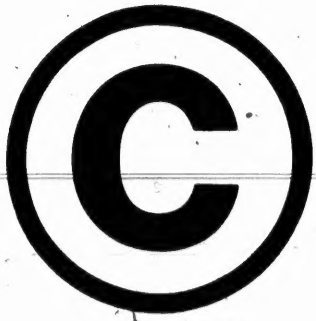

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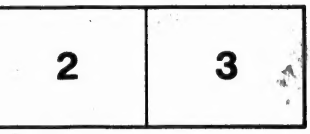

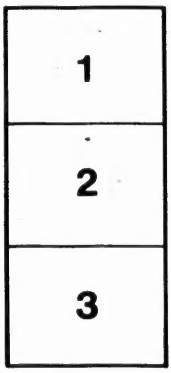

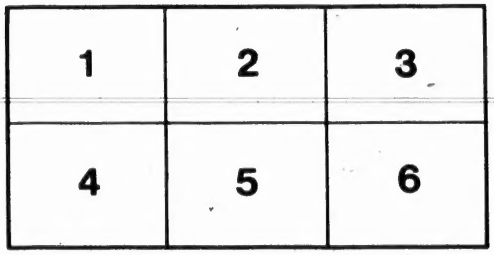

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Curtailing the Liquor Traffic.

CHAPTER I.—CONSTERNATION.

It was in Arcadia. The Council of State, patriarchs with gentle eyes and long beards, sat meditating on measures pertaining to the public weal.

The door was suddenly thrown open and a lad, breathless, with cheeks flushed and eyes bulging out with excitement, after several vain efforts to articulate, at length succeeded in saying, "Your Honors,—there's a mad dog—rampaging the streets!"

In a moment all was confusion. The aged counsellors sprang to their feet and stood silent with suppressed excitement. Then as with one impulse they all hastened to the front windows of the Consilium.

"There he is!" cried one of them, "yonder by the cross-roads at the market!"

"Ah, yes! And, oh, horrors! how he is foaming and raging! Woe to any helpless ones that may chance to come before him."

"See by the Pantheon," cried another, "the children are just coming from morning school! They will surely be bitten by this mad beast!"

And bitten they were. One and another of them were torn by his poisonous fangs.

"Oh, this is horrible!" cried one of the venerable men at the window.

"What shall we do about it?"

"Aye, that's the practical question, what shall be done about it?"

"Let us consult the Legalia Convella."

CHAPTER II.—CONSULTATION.

The Legalia Convella were the Books of Law, the accumulated wisdom of many ages.

The sages sat solemnly bending over the books. Day after day they turned the leaves with no results. Meanwhile the mad dog had bitten many [illegible]s, and there were now scores of raging curs, foaming and lurking at [illegible] corner, ready to spring upon the passers-by.

[illegible]he people mourned. There was lamentation in almost every house. Men women and children were bitten, and limped or were carried to their homes, where, after weeks of lingering pain, they died in awful spasms.

Still the deliberations went on at the Concilium. The aged functionaries were unwilling to do anything without the authority of law, and as yet they had been able to find nothing.

At length, as they were pouring over the Convella, a gleam of sudden joy lighted the face of one of them and he cried, "I have it; hear it is!"

They looked up eagerly, then bending over the book read as follows:

"*Be it ordained:* That in case any beast shall so rage and rave as to endanger the public safety, his tail shall forthwith be cut off!"

"His tail cut off!" "What will that do? A dog don't bite with his tail."

"No, but he isn't apt to bite so hard if his tail is cut off."

CHAPTER III.—REGULATION.

"We don't believe it! We don't believe it! cried many voices!"

"Well, anyway, if we abbreviate the tails of these dogs, we shall be better able to regulate their doings."

"Why so?"

OVER

"Because there won't be so much of the dogs to regulate."

"And besides we shall lend a respectable air to the whole business in this way,"

"How?"

"Why after cutting off their tails, it will be evident that the law has nothing more against them. This will make rabid dogs respectable, and biting a legitimate business."

"Yes, and it will increase our revenues."

"How do you make that out?"

"Why, we can levy on the people a tax of one dollar for every tail cut off."

CHAPTER IV.—AGITATION.

"Enough of this nonsense. What we want to do is to get rid of this whole infernal business. A dog with his tail cut off is just as hard to regulate as a dog with a tail a yard long. And it is no economy to increase the public revenues by a drain on the people's purses. Neither do you gain anything by making mad dogs respectable and a bad business legitimate. What we want to do is simply and solely to stop this rabid biting in the streets." (It was a prohibitionist who spoke—a fanatic).

Then there was silence for a long while. The Regulators could find nothing to say.

"I have it, I have it!" at length cried one. Then he read:

"*Be it ordained:* That in case any beast shall so rage and rave as to endanger the public safety, his tail shall forthwith be cut off."

"Why, that's precisely what we had before."

"Yes, but it is enough; it will suppress the evil; no need of our exceeding the law."

"How do you make that out?

"Why, don't you see, the law doesn't say where the dog's tail shall be cut off!" "Suppose we cut it off just back of the ears."

CHAPTER V.—EXTIRPATION.

This was approved. The thing was done. The dog's tails were cut off just back of their ears. That was curtailing the business with a vengeance. It was prohibition. There was no regulation about it.

But this curtailing proved most effective. The mad-dog business was done with forever. Everybody said, "Why didn't we think of it before?"

And when the old counsellor died, who had conceived the happy thought, they built a monument over him bearing this inscription:

TO THE MEMORY OF

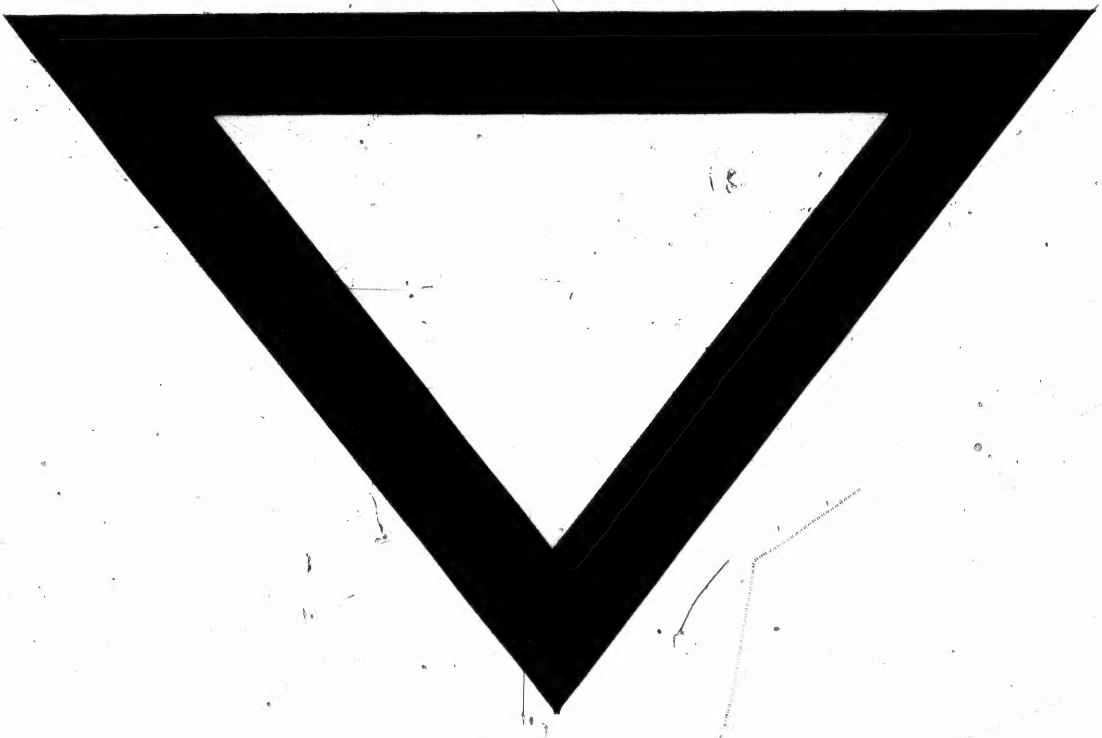
TEETOTALIS PROHIBITUS,

THE SAGE WHO ORIGINATED THE MAXIM.

"*The proper place to curtail a bad business is just back of the ears.*"

CHAPTER VI.—APPLICATION.

The *moral* is this, the liquor saloons are the mad dogs of our day, raving in every street. Nearly every home is in mourning because of their brutality, and the country is deluged with the crime and desolation which they have brought about. There is but one way of dealing with this awful scourge. Our laws must be made to conform to those of ancient Arcadia as interpreted by the wisest of her sages. The body and soul-destroying business must be curtailed as effectively as were Arcadia's mad dogs. How? Through the absolute Prohibition of the infamous traffic now and forever!

Issued by the Dominion Alliance for the Suppression of the Liquor Traffic.

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